United Nations S/2005/449

Security Council

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English
Original: Arabic

Letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations address to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the killing of Ambassador Ihab Al-Sharif, chief of the Egyptian Mission in Iraq, on 1 Jumada II A.H. 1426 (7 July A.D. 2005), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement issued by His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema and Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-41707 (E) 120705 130705

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Praise be to God and may prayers and peace be upon His last Prophet.

We ask God Almighty to preserve our religion, bless us with adherence through religion to the outer and inner truth, keep us sane and protect us from our own evil.

It was with extreme sorrow that we learned of the killing of the Egyptian ambassador in Iraq. Given that this incident has been wrongly and falsely couched under the guise of religion, we wish to state the truth with which God may guide those who have strayed from the right path.

Prohibited by God, killing is one of the greatest of crimes and gravest of sins. God Almighty says: "Do not take life, which God has made sacred, except for a just cause" and "On that account, we ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone kills a person other than in retaliation for murder or for doing mischief on Earth, it would be as if killing all humankind."

The abduction and subsequent killing of the Egyptian ambassador are events constituting the doing of mischief on Earth that is prohibited by God Almighty: "Among mankind is he whose words on the life of this world please you and who calls upon God to bear witness to what is in his heart; yet he is the most violent of adversaries. And when he turns away, he seeks to do mischief on Earth and destroy the crops and the cattle. When it is said to him that he should fear God, he is led by pride to further sin. Hell is therefore enough for him; it is an evil resting place indeed." It is thus clear that such action is prohibited and is among the gravest of sins. It is an even graver sin to attribute such action to religion; to do so is a major crime and a calumny against God Almighty, who says: "Verily, those who fabricate lies against God shall never prosper."

We wished to make this statement in order to present the truth and advise the nation. I ask God Almighty to preserve our religion and our nation, keep us sane, grant us success in comprehending our religion and adhering to the Sunnah of the Prophet, and save us from the possibility of being led astray by obvious and hidden temptations. He is All-hearing and ready to answer.

Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and his companions.

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Muhammad **Al al-Sheikh**
[*Seal illegible*]
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema
Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'

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Security Council

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Letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the terrorist acts that occurred in London Thursday morning, 1 Jumada II A.H. 1426 (7 July A.D. 2005), taking the lives of a number of civilians, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a statement issued in that regard by His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema and the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-41713 (E) 130705 130705

Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Praise be to God and Prayers and Peace be upon the Last of the Prophets.

The recent succession of events, the incidents of individual and collective killing, explosions, destruction of property and the terrorizing of peace-loving people all come under the Islamic concept of "mischief in the land". This is forbidden by the religion of Islam, and any attribution of it to Islam is unjust. The religion of Islam is not responsible for such things. In this regard, it is a duty of the people of Islam to rise up and declare the truth and reveal what is false and to make it known to all humankind that Islam is a religion of righteousness and conciliation, a religion that elevates humanity and leads it from darkness to the light, a religion which God perfected and approved for human beings as the seal of all religions, saying (may He be exalted!): "Today I have perfected for you your religion, completed My favour upon you and chosen Islam for you as a religion". Our religion involves respect for commitments and prohibits their violation. God Most High has said: "And fulfil every commitment, for every commitment will be enquired into [on the Day of Reckoning]", and "O you who believe, fulfil your promises."

Islam forbids the unjust killing of human beings. The Almighty has said: "Take not life, which God has made sacred, except by way of justice". Islam prohibits mischief in the land, making it a grave offence. For God has said: "There is a type of man whose speech about life in this world may please you, and he calls God to witness regarding what is in his heart; yet he is the grimmest of adversaries. When he turns his back, his aim everywhere is to spread mischief in the land and destroy crops and cattle. But Allah does not love mischief. When it is said to that man, "Fear Allah, he is led by arrogance to (more) crime. Hell will do for him, a wretched resting-place indeed!"

Islam came to spread justice, even towards an enemy. Let not his hostility lead you to commit aggression against him and wrong him. For God Most High has said: "Let not the hatred of others to you make you deviate from right to wrong and depart from justice. Be just: that is closer to piety". The explosions currently being carried out in the world, including the bombings that occurred in London on Thursday morning, have targeted peaceful people, something that is not permitted or advocated by the religion of Islam. Rather, as we have stated, these are forbidden acts according to our religion. Anyone who attributes such things to Islam or alleges that the religion of Islam permits such acts is guilty of ineffable slander against the religion of God, for He has said: "Those who ascribe false things to God will never prosper". He has also said: "Say: the things that my Lord has forbidden are: shameful deeds, whether open or secret; sins and wrongful oppression; associating with God that for which He has given no authority; and saying things about God of which you have no knowledge".

Esteemed Islamic scholars of our times have — thank God — repeatedly expressed their censure of such abominable acts and have stated time and time again that those acts have nothing to do with Islam. They have affirmed that anyone who violates such principles in word or in deed sets no example to be followed, for he is proven wrong both by the law and by the consensus of the ulema. As we have said,

one's duty is piety towards God and being on one's guard against succumbing to acts forbidden by God, such as killing, causing explosions or "mischief in the land", making bold against the religion of the Almighty God or attributing such heinous acts to it, when it is in no way responsible for such things. The learned scholars must reiterate the statement and continue to explain until those who have departed from the straight path of God desist; until it becomes clear to the world that such crimes are unrelated to the religion of God the Almighty; and until Islamic scholars have fully discharged their responsibility. For God exacted a promise from men of learning to speak out clearly and not to hold back, when He said: "And remember, Allah took a covenant from the People of the Book to make it known and clear to mankind, and not to hide it".

This is what we wished to state, on behalf of God, the Prophet and his Book, the Muslim Imams and the laity and in discharge of our duty.

May the Almighty God, Who hears all and answers all, safeguard our country and other Islamic countries from evil and harm!

May God bless the Prophet Muhammad, his family and all his Companions, pray for them and keep them safe.

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Muhammad **Al al-Sheikh**
(Seal — illegible)
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,
Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema,
Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'

United Nations S/2005/451

Security Council

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13 July 2005
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Letter dated 12 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Upon instructions of my Government, I have the honour to inform you of its reaction to the recent massacres perpetrated in the two Kivu provinces (see annex).

My Government requests that you have this letter distributed as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Atoki **Ileka**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

05-41930 (E) 140705 140705

Annex to the letter dated 12 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic Republic of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

12 July 2005

The Government has learned with dismay of the murderous attack on the village of Ntulumamba, 70 km northwest of Bukavu in South Kivu, and on the villages of Nyamirima, Nyakakoma and Ishasha, 150 km north of Goma in North Kivu. The Government condemns these barbaric acts carried out by the negative forces (FDLR, Interahamwe, Rasta and other armed gangs), which have resulted in more than 30 deaths, over 50 wounded and 39 huts burned down.

It should be recalled that in Rome on 31 March 2005, the FDLR made a commitment to abandon the military path and return to Rwanda. However, no concrete evidence of that repatriation has been observed on the ground since that time. Faced with such prevarication, the Government, which had offered them the opportunity to return peacefully to their own country, had no choice but to start forcibly disarming them, with the logistical support of MONUC. The position of the Government of the Republic with regard to these negative forces has always been clear. Whatever potential threat these armed gangs pose to their countries of origin, they constitute a permanent danger to and daily cause of insecurity for the Congolese populations subjected to extortion, looting, rape, kidnapping and murder. These gangs do not hesitate to sow death and destruction, as they have just done in Ntulumamba, Nyamirima, Nyakakoma and Ishasha.

The Government of the Republic is determined to intensify, with the support of the United Nations, its operations to secure these regions and to forcibly disarm the armed gangs which jeopardize peace and security and which pose a special threat of disrupting the electoral process in that part of the Republic. The Government expects the firm support of the international community to assist the Democratic Republic of the Congo and its Armed Forces in this difficult but noble mission.

(*Signed*) Raymond **Ramazani Baya**

United Nations A/59/870–S/2005/452

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Security Council

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General Assembly
Fifty-ninth session
Agenda items 36 and 148

Security Council
Sixtieth year

The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Identical letters dated 13 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I would like to draw your attention to the suicide bombing that occurred at a shopping mall in the Israeli town of Netanya yesterday.

On Tuesday evening (local time) a member of the Islamic Jihad terrorist organization entered Netanya from the West Bank village of Atil carrying 7 to 10 kilograms of explosives. The terrorist detonated himself at the entrance to the Hasharon Mall in Netanya. Four women — two of whom were only 16 years old — were killed in this attack and 90 others were wounded.

This very serious act of terrorism comes during a period in which Israel has taken a number of steps to advance the peace process, including our impending disengagement from the Gaza Strip. Israel remains committed to advancing the peace process, but it will not and cannot tolerate an absence of genuine and uncompromising Palestinian efforts to fully eradicate the Palestinian terrorist campaign.

The responsibility to end Palestinian terror lies wholly with the Palestinian Authority. The Palestinian Authority must not limit itself to declarations condemning terrorism but must also immediately undertake visible, effective efforts to arrest Palestinian individuals and/or groups planning violent attacks on Israel, dismantle Palestinian terrorist organizations, and end the campaign of Palestinian terrorism. Until the terrorist infrastructure that has taken root within Palestinian society is dismantled no real progress towards peace can be expected.

Furthermore, there has been evidence that other States in the region have been supporting, training and financing Palestinian terrorist groups in an attempt to derail the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The failure to hold these regimes accountable for this destructive behaviour jeopardizes innocent lives of civilians, the peace process and regional stability.

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Israel calls upon the international community to urge the Palestinian Authority to take all necessary steps to immediately dismantle terrorist organizations and prevent further attacks against Israel. Israel further calls upon the international community to reaffirm its absolute rejection of terrorism and to accept nothing less than a zero tolerance policy towards terrorism by all States.

I should be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of this letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 36 and 148, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations S/2005/453

Security Council

Distr.: General
13 July 2005

Original: English

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Security Council resolution 1582 (2005) of 28 January 2005, by which the Council decided to extend the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG) until 31 July 2005. It provides an update of the situation in Abkhazia, Georgia, since my report of 25 April 2005 (S/2005/269).

2. My Special Representative for Georgia, Heidi Tagliavini, continued to head UNOMIG. She was assisted in this task by the Chief Military Observer, Major General Hussein Ghobashi (Egypt), until 11 June 2005, when he completed his tour of duty with the Mission. A new Chief Military Observer is due to arrive at the Mission shortly. The strength of UNOMIG as at 1 July 2005 stood at 120 military observers and 12 civilian police officers (see annex).

II. Political process

3. The participation of the Georgian and Abkhaz side in the United Nations-chaired meeting of the Group of Friends on 7 and 8 April in Geneva (see S/2005/269, paras. 10-12) signalled the resumption of the United Nations-led peace process after over eight months of suspended contacts between the parties. Subsequently, my Special Representative focused her efforts on resuming the dialogue between the two sides on the primary issues of political and security matters, the return of refugees and internally displaced persons and economic cooperation. These issues are being pursued in order to address practical and humanitarian challenges in the conflict zone and to improve confidence between the two sides so that negotiations on a comprehensive political settlement of the conflict can take place, using the paper entitled "Basic Principles for the Distribution of Competences between Tbilisi and Sukhumi" and its transmittal letter (see S/2002/88, para. 3) as a starting point.

4. In pursuance of these aims, my Special Representative brought the Georgian and Abkhaz sides together on 12 May at UNOMIG's Gali headquarters to discuss security issues in the zone of conflict. The Commander of the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) also participated. The discussion concluded with a protocol, signed by Mr. Khaindrava,

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the Minister for Conflict Resolution of Georgia, and Mr. Shamba, the de facto Abkhaz Foreign Minister, as well as UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force, including measures to strengthen the implementation of the Moscow Agreement on a ceasefire and separation of forces of 1994 (S/1994/583 and Corr.1, annex I) and subsequent security commitments. The parties undertook to submit figures on the strength of their armed personnel in the conflict zone, samples of their identification documents and proposals for establishing additional hot lines between the law enforcement agencies across the ceasefire line. They agreed to maintain a minimum distance between the positions of law enforcement agencies and the ceasefire line, to establish groups on each side to monitor the situation in the security zone, to exchange information on criminal activities, to ensure support for and security of staff of international organizations implementing projects, to improve the human rights situation and to resume patrolling in the Kodori valley. They also undertook to hold a meeting on security guarantees, in line with commitments made at the Geneva meeting of the Group of Friends of 7 and 8 April 2004, scheduled for 20 and 21 July.

5. On 15 and 16 June, the Russian Federation convened the so-called Sochi working groups on the rehabilitation of the Sochi-Tbilisi railway and on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons in Moscow (see S/2003/412, para. 5). The two sides were represented at the ministerial level; my Special Representative and the Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force also participated. At the meeting on the return of refugees and internally displaced persons, the parties expressed support for the documents prepared by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which included a draft questionnaire and plan for a verification and registration of returnees in the Gali district, as well as the paper on strategic directions for activities in confidence-building in the context of returns. They also resumed the discussion on the draft "letter of intent" prepared by UNOMIG and UNHCR and endorsed by the Group of Friends (see S/2004/315, para. 9). The Head of Tbilisi office of UNHCR, the lead United Nations agency on the issue, participated in the meeting.

6. At the meeting on the railway rehabilitation, the parties agreed that an expert group would meet to discuss the security and other practical aspects of conducting a technical survey of the Psou-Inguri section of the railway, which includes the Inguri bridge. This follow-up high-level meeting took place with participation of my Special Representative on 2 July in the UNOMIG Gali headquarters. The parties agreed to establish joint mobile groups, including representatives of the two sides and the Russian Federation, and to finalize all related practical matters in order to begin the survey in mid-July.

7. The efforts of my Special Representative took place against the background of continuing efforts by the authorities in Sukhumi to consolidate their position in the aftermath of the de facto elections. On the question of Abkhazia's status, the leadership in Sukhumi reiterated its position that it had been determined through the unilateral proclamation of independence (see S/1999/1087, para. 7). The Georgian leadership has affirmed its readiness to engage with the new Abkhaz leadership and its commitment to a peaceful solution. Sukhumi questioned this commitment, citing in particular the increased military expenditure by Tbilisi, and regarded Georgian statements on the closure of the Abkhaz portion of the Black Sea to international maritime traffic as provocative and intended to disrupt the summer tourist season.

8. In addition, my Special Representative has maintained regular contact with the Group of Friends, including with the Russian Federation in its capacity as facilitator. She facilitated visits to the zone of conflict by high-level representatives of the Group of Friends, including the visits of Ambassador Steven Mann, Special Negotiator for Eurasian Conflicts of the United States State Department in April and of Sir Brian Fall, the Special Representative for the South Caucasus of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in June, as well as other diplomatic representatives. She also met with Mr. Valery Loshchinin, First Deputy Foreign Minister and Special Representative of the President of the Russian Federation for the Georgian-Abkhaz Settlement in Moscow in June.

9. On 30 May, the Foreign Ministers of Georgia and the Russian Federation affirmed their cooperation on the achievement of a peaceful settlement of conflicts in Georgia in their joint declaration on the modalities of functioning and the withdrawal of Russian bases from Georgia. On 10 May, the President of the United States of America, Mr. George W. Bush, emphasized the need for peaceful settlement of conflicts during his visit to Tbilisi. He urged the Georgian leadership to work with the Abkhaz and South Ossetian leaderships towards that end and pledged United States support for and cooperation with the United Nations in resolving the Georgian-Abkhaz conflict.

III. Operational activities

10. UNOMIG military observers performed their monitoring and observation tasks through daily ground patrols in the Gali and Zugdidi sectors. They maintained close liaison with the authorities of the two parties, including their law enforcement agencies, and the CIS peacekeeping force. The parties participated regularly in the weekly quadripartite meetings with UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force to discuss security issues in the zone of conflict, including the implementation of the provisions of the protocol of 12 May (see para. 4 above), and in the investigations of the Joint Fact-Finding Group. Patrolling of the Abkhaz-controlled lower Kodori valley was carried out, but patrolling of the Georgian-controlled upper Kodori valley remained suspended for security reasons.

11. During the reporting period, no violations of the 1994 Moscow Agreement were recorded. On 21 April, the Abkhaz side conducted a military exercise involving heavy weapons in the Ochamchira training area adjacent to the Gali sector restricted weapons zone, but avoided violations of the ceasefire arrangements. The situation along the ceasefire line remained generally calm, although criminal activities continued to highlight the lack of effective law enforcement and low confidence among the local population in the existing local law enforcement agencies.

Gali sector

12. The situation in the Gali sector has been relatively calm, although criminal activities continued with 11 armed robberies, one shooting, one abduction, five detentions and one explosion reported. Tensions were reported in the lower Gali district, when on 16 May, Abkhaz armed personnel threatened and forced the village population to pay compensation for a stolen trailer containing scrap metal. On 18 May, three residents of Zugdidi were abducted in Nabakevi near the ceasefire

line; timely action of the Gali militia led to the arrest of perpetrators and the release of the abductees. On 25 May, two Abkhaz soldiers were killed and three injured while handling an explosive device at their checkpoint west of Gali city. On 31 May, between 25 and 30 young men from the village of Okumi were taken by Abkhaz military recruitment authorities; most of them were later released. On 18 June, in Pichori, in the lower Gali district, two UNOMIG patrol teams comprising 11 military observers and two interpreters were robbed by three armed masked men. The perpetrators fired several bullets into the ground. No injuries or damage occurred. UNOMIG subsequently increased the security level for its personnel operating in the lower Gali district.

Zugdidi sector

13. The situation in the Zugdidi sector has been generally calm, with a number of criminal incidents reported, including one killing, two shootings and seven robberies. On 19 May, the Georgian police uncovered an arms cache with 10 anti-tank mines, 20 rocket-propelled grenades, grenade launchers and explosive material in an abandoned tea factory in the village of Natsuluku north-east of Zugdidi. On 29 May, a CIS peacekeeping force convoy of 11 vehicles came under fire in the vicinity of Zugdidi; two vehicles were damaged, but no causalities were reported. On 4 June, an exchange of fire took place between a group of smugglers from the Abkhaz-controlled side of the ceasefire line and Georgian police near the ceasefire line in Shamgona; one perpetrator was wounded and arrested.

Kodori valley

14. Based on reports from the authorities of both sides and the CIS peacekeeping force, the situation in the Kodori valley has been assessed as generally calm. However, there were reports of security apprehensions among the population in the upper Kodori valley following the decision to disband the local "hunters" battalion by the authorities in Tbilisi in late April. On 27 April, UNOMIG engineers and the CIS peacekeeping force conducted a patrol to the lower Kodori valley to assess the damage to the main road as a result of torrential rainfall that had caused flooding. Damage in the upper part of the valley could not be assessed as patrols there remain suspended pending the provision of necessary security guarantees from the Georgian side.

IV. Policing issues

15. UNOMIG's civilian police component continued to operate on the Zugdidi side of the ceasefire line. It maintained good cooperation with local law enforcement agencies, and contributed to the weekly quadripartite meetings and investigations of the Joint Fact-Finding Group, including providing forensic assistance. The Abkhaz authorities remained reluctant to allow the deployment of UNOMIG police advisers on the Gali side of the ceasefire line. This hampered cross ceasefire line cooperation, hindered progress in criminal investigations and limited the effectiveness of preventive anti-crime efforts.

16. UNOMIG civilian police officers conducted on-the-job field training for Georgian police officers, a basic course on "human rights and law enforcement", and a forensic training course on crime scene management and community policing

and crime prevention. They also supported, in close cooperation with local police officers, anti-drug theatre performances in the Zugdidi district and assisted in establishing regional and district community policing and crime prevention committees. On 11 June, UNOMIG and the Estonian Public Service Academy signed a memorandum of understanding on mutual cooperation, including the provision of basic police training and "training of the trainers" for law enforcement officers. The Ministry of Justice of Turkey has also offered to host a two-week training course for members of the local police in forensics.

V. Cooperation with the collective peacekeeping forces of the Commonwealth of Independent States

17. UNOMIG and the CIS peacekeeping force maintained close cooperation in fulfilling their respective mandates. At the request of the Abkhaz side, joint UNOMIG-CIS peacekeeping force patrols were conducted between 3 and 7 May to ascertain the number of Georgian troops and law enforcement personnel deployed along the ceasefire line; their numbers were found to be within those authorized in relevant security agreements. Regular meetings between the leadership of the Mission and the Commander of the CIS peacekeeping force as well as respective liaison teams further enhanced mutual cooperation.

VI. Human rights and the humanitarian situation

18. During the reporting period, the United Nations human rights office in Sukhumi implemented the programme for the protection and promotion of human rights in Abkhazia, Georgia (see S/1996/284, annex I) and its protection activities by collecting information directly from victims, witnesses and other reliable sources. The office followed up with the relevant Abkhaz authorities on reports of violations of due process, ill-treatment in detention, involuntary disappearances, religious intolerance, as well as arbitrary evictions and other property rights violations. In particular, the office raised its concern with the Abkhaz law enforcement agencies at the delayed investigation, and resulting impunity, of two cases of abduction in the Gali district reportedly perpetrated by security personnel in July 2004. The office also continued to provide legal advice to the local population, to monitor court trials and to visit detention centres. It assisted two inmates serving prison sentences to apply for amnesty to the de facto President, ensuring the release of one of the inmates.

19. Together with four local non-governmental organizations, the office began the implementation of an Abkhazia-wide human rights programme, funded by the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, and supported the launch of seven human rights projects under the programme. In addition, the staff of the office, supported by UNOMIG police advisers, conducted a seven-week training course in human rights and law enforcement in the Sukhumi militia training centre, distributed printed materials and participated in discussions on the legal and practical framework of the activities of non-governmental organizations in Abkhazia, Georgia. The Abkhaz authorities have not yet agreed to the opening of a UNOMIG human rights sub-office in the town of Gali. This has limited the ability of the office

to help protect human rights of the local population, including returnees, and to support the non-governmental sector in the Gali district

20. United Nations agencies, as well as international and non-governmental organizations continued their efforts to assist vulnerable groups affected by the conflict. In the health and education sectors, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and Médecins sans frontières continued to provide medicines, testing kits and equipment to Abkhaz hospitals, free health services and a tuberculosis treatment programme. The United States Agency for International Development began funding two projects in Abkhazia, Georgia, an HIV/AIDS prevention programme, implemented by Save the Children, and a youth development programme implemented by Catholic Relief Services. UNHCR and UNICEF focused on school rehabilitation and distribution of educational materials, with the assistance of UNOMIG, while ICRC continued teaching international humanitarian law. The World Food Programme (WFP) continued its food-for-work programme, but plans to close its office by the end of June.

21. In the rehabilitation sector, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) focused on developing its recovery programme for the Gali, Ochamchira and Tkvarcheli districts and establishing an information centre to improve coordination of assistance provided by international and local organizations. The European Commission continued rehabilitation of the Inguri Hydroelectric Plant and announced plans to launch a new programme that will fund economic rehabilitation and confidence/capacity-building activities in Sukhumi and adjacent areas to the west. International non-governmental organizations such as Première Urgence and World Vision continued to implement small-scale rehabilitation and community development projects. Following heavy floods and landslides in western Georgia and the upper Svaneti region during April and May, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs fielded initial missions to Georgia from 6 to 16 June to assess institutional structure and arrangements in place for disaster preparedness and response.

22. The United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) worked with local partners to develop initiatives promoting women's human rights and peacebuilding, including the possible establishment of an Abkhazia-wide women's information network. The United Nations Volunteers focused on capacity-building and peacebuilding projects. It recently funded four projects, one of which was an exhibition on activities of non-governmental organizations in Abkhazia, Georgia.

23. In April, the HALO Trust completed mine clearance operations along the Inguri river in the Gali district, declaring the area "mine-impact free". It has meanwhile expanded its operation to Ochamchira and Sukhumi regions.

24. During the reporting period, UNOMIG's trust fund office continued to raise funds, identify new and monitor implementation of approved quick impact projects. These projects address urgent humanitarian needs and have been widely appreciated both by the authorities and the local populations in the zone of conflict. UNOMIG also cooperated with the European Commission, conducting two assessment studies of health and electricity in the zone of conflict. These studies, financed by the European Commission, complemented the UNDP assessment of water management, local agriculture and microfinance and are expected to pave the way for the commencement of the European Commission-funded basic rehabilitation

programme in the Gali, Tkvarcheli, Ochamchira and Zugdidi districts in the amount of almost 4 million euros. The programme will focus on electricity, health and income generation and will be implemented by UNOMIG and UNDP.

VII. Financial aspects

25. By its resolution 59/304 of 22 June 2005, the General Assembly appropriated an amount of $36,380,000 (gross), equivalent to $3,031,666 per month, for UNOMIG for the period from 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006. The assessment of these amounts is subject to the adoption of a decision by the Security Council to extend the mandate of the Mission.

26. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of UNOMIG beyond 31 July 2005, the cost of maintaining the Mission until 30 June 2006 would be limited to the monthly amounts approved by the General Assembly.

27. As at 30 April 2005, unpaid assessed contributions to the UNOMIG special account amounted to $10.4 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations at that date amounted to $2.2 billion.

VIII. Observations

28. Resumed participation of the Georgian and Abkhaz sides in the United Nations-chaired Geneva meetings of the Group of Friends and in meetings addressing various practical aspects of the peace process after a prolonged suspension of direct contacts is an encouraging development. I welcome the incremental progress made so far and express hope that the sides will muster the political will for a more meaningful and pragmatic re-engagement and for seeking solutions at the negotiating table without preconditions. Only a genuine commitment by the Georgian and Abkhaz sides will allow the peace process to eventually progress to a lasting and comprehensive political settlement through peaceful means and on the basis of relevant Security Council resolutions. The United Nations is committed to assist such endeavours. The sustained and coordinated support of the Group of Friends to the continuous efforts of my Special Representative remains invaluable.

29. I appeal to both parties to seize the new emerging opportunities for dialogue and to make best use of the involvement of the international community and the improving regional environment to achieve concrete progress in the agreed priority areas and related confidence-building measures. In this context, I encourage both the sides to formally recommit to the non-resumption of hostilities and the peaceful settlement of the conflict, as well as ensuring the safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons, at the first stage to the Gali district. I urge the Georgian side to be forthcoming to meeting the Abkhaz security concerns and urge the Abkhaz side to effectively address practical and security concerns of the local population and returnees and to honour its previous commitments of accepting the deployment of UNOMIG's civilian police officers in the Gali district, allowing the opening of a human rights sub-office in Gali, and the teaching of local youth in their native Georgian language. At this juncture, concrete actions would do much to restore confidence between the sides and advance negotiations on the priority areas.

30. The freedom of movement of UNOMIG personnel in implementing its mandated tasks must be respected and unimpeded. The security of UNOMIG personnel remains a major concern. Criminal activities, which also affect UNOMIG and its patrols, highlight the need for the sides to increase their efforts and cooperation in enhancing the security of personnel operating in the zone of conflict. I urge both sides to make concerted and resolute efforts to identify and bring to justice the perpetrators of criminal acts, including the ambush of a UNOMIG bus in Sukhumi in September 1998, the shooting down of a UNOMIG helicopter in the Kodori valley in October 2001 and hostage-taking incidents. Regular patrolling in the Kodori valley remains an integral part of UNOMIG's mandate and I urge both sides to cooperate on security-related matters and actions that are essential for its resumption.

31. With the expected finalization of the agreement with the European Commission, project activities in the zone of conflict are expected to increase. In this regard, I would like to emphasize the need for both the Georgian and Abkhaz sides to actively support these efforts, not least by ensuring security and safety of those who will be working on the implementation of the projects, including UNOMIG, UNDP, the European Commission and other actors. I would also stress the importance of ensuring the safety and security of UNHCR personnel involved in the conduct of the registration and counting process in the zone of conflict.

32. In pursuing both practical activities and a lasting solution to this conflict, UNOMIG continues to play an important and relevant role in preventing a destabilization of the situation on the ground. I therefore recommend that the mandate of UNOMIG be extended for a further period of six months, until 31 January 2006.

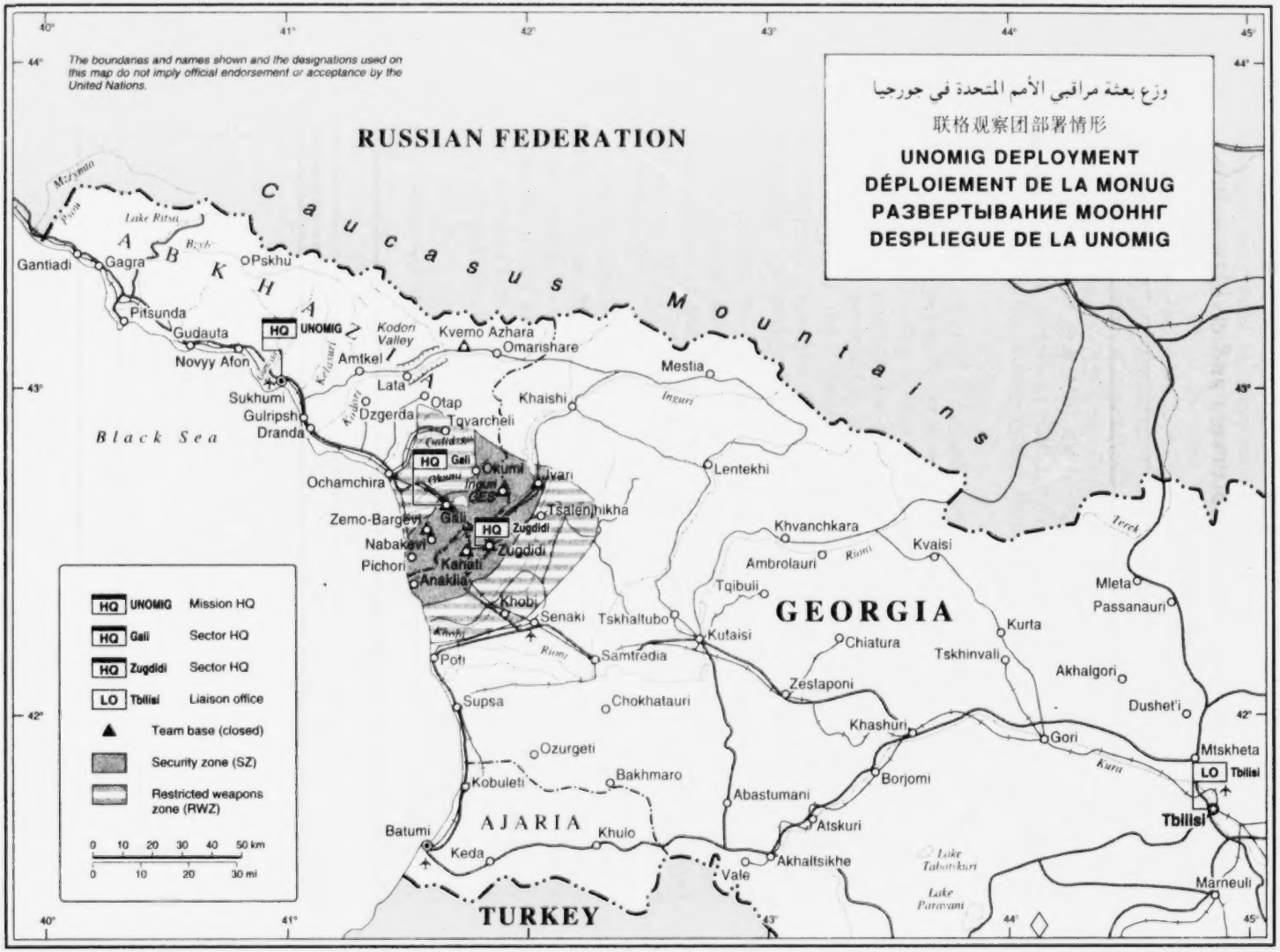
33. Finally, I would like to express my appreciation to my Special Representative, Heidi Tagliavini, for her unrelenting efforts to facilitate a lasting political settlement to the conflict, to the outgoing Chief Military Observer, Major-General Hussein Ghobashi, for his leadership of the UNOMIG military observers, and to all the men and women of UNOMIG for their dedicated work in support of the peace process in a volatile and often dangerous environment.

Annex

Countries providing military observers and civilian police personnel (as of 1 July 2005)

Country	*Military observers*
Albania	3
Austria	2
Bangladesh	7
Croatia	1
Czech Republic	5
Denmark	5
Egypt	5
France	3
Germany	12
Greece	5
Hungary	7
Indonesia	4
Jordan	8
Pakistan	8
Poland	5
Republic of Korea	7
Romania	1
Russian Federation	5
Sweden	3
Switzerland	4
Turkey	5
Ukraine	5
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	7
United States of America	2
Uruguay	3
Total	**120**

Country	*Civilian police personnel*
Germany	4
Hungary	1
India	1
Poland	1
Switzerland	3
Russian Federation	2
Total	**12**



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Department of Peacekeeping Operations
Cartographic Section

United Nations S/2005/454

Security Council

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Letter dated 13 July 2005 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to refer to my letter dated 26 May 2005 (S/2005/346) by which I forwarded to the Security Council, further to paragraph 1 (c) of article 13 ter of the statute of the International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991, the 27 nominations for ad litem judges of the Trial Chambers of that Tribunal which had been received from States Members of the United Nations within the period specified in paragraph 1 (b) of article 13 ter of the statute, as extended by Security Council resolution 1597 (2005) of 20 April 2005, which also amended article 13 ter of the statute to allow for the re-election of existing ad litem judges.

I also have the honour to refer to the letter dated 7 June 2005 (S/2005/371), from the then President of the Security Council, Jean-Marc de La Sablière, in which he informed me of the decision of the Security Council, which was taken at its 5195th meeting, to agree to the suggestion I had made in my letter of 26 May 2005 that the Council extend the deadline for nominations for ad litem judges of the Trial Chambers of the Tribunal for a further 30 days. In his letter, Mr. de La Sablière stated that the Security Council took note of the contents of my letter and decided to extend further the deadline for nominations until 7 July 2005.

Pursuant to paragraph 1 (c) of article 13 ter of the statute of the Tribunal as so amended, I have the honour to forward to the Security Council the 33 nominations for ad litem judges of the Trial Chambers of the Tribunal which have been received from States Members of the United Nations within the period specified in paragraph 1 (b) of article 13 ter of the Tribunal's statute, as extended by the Security Council in the decision taken at its 5195th meeting. The list of candidates* in alphabetical order is annexed to this letter, together with their curricula vitae, which have been provided in connection with their nominations.

I would draw the attention of the Security Council to paragraph 1 (c) of article 13 ter of the statute which provides in the relevant part as follows: "From the nominations received, the Security Council shall establish a list of not less than 54 candidates, taking due account of the adequate representation of the principal legal systems of the world and bearing in mind the importance of equitable geographical distribution."

* Circulated only to the members of the Security Council.

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I would note that the list of 33 candidates continues to be short of the minimum number of 54 which is required by paragraph 1 (c) of article 13 ter of the statute of the Tribunal.

(*Signed*) Kofi A. **Annan**